THE CLAIMS

What I claim as my invention is:

1. (Currently amended) A method for using a computer to enable or to facilitate ~~communication~~ the sending or transmission of email or electronic ~~mail~~ text communication ~~between 2 or more parties~~ in which ~~a~~ the Sender Party or Parties (also known as Caller party or Parties), at or before the time of sending or transmitting the communication, pays a fee, bears a cost, or provides consideration which benefits in part the receiving party, comprising:

    i. utilizing a network presence;

    ii. establishing and organizing one or more network or Internet-based Merchant Intermediaries, email gateways, message centers, e-commerce sites, or combinations thereof;

    iii. [ii.]enabling one or more Sender or Caller Parties to input terms or information ~~inputting~~ into the website, computer, or other database ~~computer search terms or information~~, including by the use of clicks on hypertext links, to search for or to locate a Receiver Party or an address, name, account, location, affiliation, or reference identification

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associated with a specific party to receive

the communication;

iv. [~~iii.~~]enabling one or more Sender or Caller

Parties to input ~~inputting~~ into the computer

information (including inputting text,

graphics, sound, or other information), that

creates, formats, forwards, edits, modifies,

addresses, or directs a communication or

transmission;

v. [~~iv.~~]enabling one or more Sender or Caller

Parties to input ~~inputting~~ into the computer a

payment identifier, account information,

security code, or other information to enable

a Sender or Caller party to pay for, to assume

a cost or obligation, to charge or otherwise

to bill, to account, to debit, to access

benefits, to license, or otherwise to transfer

benefits or consideration that in whole or in

part benefit a receiver party;

vi. [~~v.~~]charging or requiring a threshold payment

or ~~fee, accounting of pre-existing benefits,~~

or a ~~present~~ transfer of benefits ~~or~~

~~consideration by Caller Party, Fan, or other~~

~~party on Caller Party or Fan's behalf~~ from

Sender or Caller Party, at or before the time

of sending or transmission of the Caller's or

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Sender's ~~prior to connecting, sending, transmitting, or forwarding Caller Party's or Fan's~~ communication to Receiver Party's account, ~~address, or to a location associated with a specific receiver~~;

vii. [~~vi.~~]segregating, transmitting, storing, holding, distributing, or passing through transmissions or communications ~~directed~~ to an account, address, or location associated with a specific receiver party, ~~account, or address~~;

viii. [~~vii.~~]compensating party who receives communications or participates in the method.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the step of ~~utilizing a network presence~~ establishing and organizing one or more network or Internet-based Merchant Intermediaries, email gateways, message centers, e-commerce sites, or combinations thereof, comprises:

   i. establishing one or more network presence(s) on one or more networks, computers, or devices;

   ii. establishing one or more internet-based web-sites or network based interactive information providers including those incorporating one or

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more databases, web-based email providers,

email gateways, traditional mail servers, e-

commerce sites, or combinations thereof;

iii. organizing one or more internet-based web-

sites or network-based interactive information

providers including those incorporating one or

more databases, web-based email servers, email

gateways, traditional mail servers, e-commerce

sites, or combinations thereof to allow

Receiver Parties to input information; enable

Receiver Parties to provide requested

information (including contact,

authentication, or financial information

relating to Receiver Party) or other

information requested by Merchant

Intermediary; establish accounts (including

email and payment accounts); enable one or

more Receiver parties to list or publish

information about themselves on the network

presence or web-site of the Merchant

Intermediaries; bind Receiver Party to

agreement with Merchant Intermediary.

iv. [ii.] further comprising:

establishing one or more email account(s) and

address(es) for Receiver Party, including

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establishing unique addresses, accounts,

mailboxes, pass-through means, or other

identifiers or repositories for <u>Receiver</u>

parties to receive communications or

transmissions;

v. <u>establishing and providing</u> ~~a~~ <u>one or more</u>

network accessible searchable database<u>(s)</u>,

searchable ~~or~~ information display or interface

<u>of accounts, names, persons, entities,</u>

<u>identifiers, or other references related to</u>

<u>Persons or entities that have agreed to or</u>

<u>able to receive email or communication for a</u>

<u>fee</u> to enable a <u>Caller or Sender</u> party to

browse, to search for, to locate, or to find <u>a</u>

<u>Receiver Party or</u> an address, account,

location, or reference identification

associated with a specific <u>Receiver</u> party to

receive the communication;

vi. and providing additional information, pages

references, links, or other data about or

concerning the receiver party or its

associations.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the

step, <u>or part of the step,</u> of ~~inputting into the~~

~~computer search terms or information to search for or~~

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~~to locate the address, account, location, or reference~~
~~identification associated with a specific party to~~
~~receive the communication~~ to search for or to locate a
Receiver Party or an address, name, account, location,
affiliation, or reference identification associated
with a specific party to receive the communication,
comprises:

    ~~i.   establishing unique addresses, accounts,~~
       ~~mailboxes, pass-through means, or other~~
       ~~identifiers or repositories for parties to~~
       ~~receive, store, or access communications or~~
       ~~transmissions;~~

i. (~~ii.~~)verifying, checking, or authenticating
that the specific Receiver parties to receive
the communication are authentically associated
with the commonly known party most often or
commonly associated in the public's mind with
the name or association of the name given as a
party intending to receive communication;

ii. [~~iii.~~]enabling the Merchant Intermediary,
by automated means and other means, to check
and verify the information provided by the
Receiver Party upon the Receiver Party's
establishment of an account and for the
Merchant Intermediary to verify by use of third
party authentication measures, computerized,

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automated, in person, and otherwise, that the
Person or entity requesting to be affiliated
with the Name is actually associated with the
named Receiver Party;

iii.[iv.]Providing a means for the Caller or
Sender Party to search, find, locate, identify,
and access addresses, accounts, locations, or
reference identifications associated with a
specific party to receive the communication or
transmission;

iv. [v.]Providing additional information about
the receiver party or its associations.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, in which the step of
inputting into the computer search terms or information
to search for or to locate the address, account,
location, or reference identification associated with a
specific party to receive the communication, comprises:

i. establishing addresses, accounts, locations,
reference identifications, identifiers,
channels, codes, e-mail addresses, web site
addresses or pages, storage accounts, or other
repositories, pass-through accounts,
addresses, sites, or means for parties to

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receive or to store communication or

transmission;

  ii. organizing the addresses, accounts, locations,

reference identifications, identifiers,

channels, codes, e-mail addresses, web site

addresses or pages, storage accounts, or other

repositories, pass-through accounts,

addresses, sites or means so that they can be

searched and located by the name or

association of the parties to receive the

communication or transmission;

  iii. providing a means to search, find, locate,

identify, and access addresses, accounts,

locations, or reference identifications

associated with an account or address

associated with a specific party to receive

the communication or transmission.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the

step of ~~inputting into the computer information that~~

~~creates, formats, forwards, edits, modifies, addresses,~~

~~or directs a communication or transmission~~ enabling one

or more Caller or Sender Parties to input ~~inputting~~

into the computer information (including inputting

text, graphics, sound, or other information), that

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creates, formats, forwards, edits, modifies, addresses,

or directs a communication or transmission, comprises:

    i. Providing services or means to enable <u>Sender</u>

      <u>or Caller</u> parties to input information such as

      text, audio, or graphics or to create, to

      format, or to direct communications, e-mail,

      or transmissions.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the

step of ~~inputting into the computer a payment~~

~~identifier, account information, security code, or~~

~~other information to enable parties to pay for, to~~

~~assume a cost or obligation, to charge or otherwise to~~

~~bill, to account, to debit, to access benefits, to~~

~~license, or otherwise to transfer benefits or~~

~~consideration~~ <u>enabling one or more Sender or Caller</u>

<u>Parties to input</u> ~~inputting~~ <u>into the computer a payment</u>

<u>identifier, account information, security code, or</u>

<u>other information to enable a Caller or Sender party to</u>

<u>pay for, to assume a cost or obligation, to charge or</u>

<u>otherwise to bill, to account, to debit, to access</u>

<u>benefits, to license, or otherwise to transfer benefits</u>

<u>or consideration that in whole or in part benefit a</u>

<u>receiver party</u> comprises:

    i. Establishing terms, conditions, and legal agreements between the <u>Sender or Caller Party</u> and the <u>Merchant Intermediary</u> parties;

    ii. Inputting or enabling <u>Receiver</u> parties to input into the computer information <u>that forms the basis of a contract and to require or to allow the Sender or Caller Party</u> to accept or to form a legally binding contract or agreement between the <u>Sender (or Caller) and Receiver</u> parties <u>on the Receiver Party's terms and conditions;</u>

    iii. Enable Merchant Intermediary to authenticate or to verify, by automated, in person, third party or other authentication means, the identity and information provided by a <u>Caller or Sender</u> Party;

    iv. providing services or means to enable one or more <u>Sender or Caller</u> parties to pay for, to assume a cost or obligation, to charge or otherwise to bill, to account, to debit, to access benefits, to license, to provide consideration, or otherwise to compensate or benefit one or more other <u>Receiver</u> parties;

    v. providing services or means to process payment, to transact financial transfers, to authenticate or authorize transactions, to

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charge a <u>Sender or Caller</u> party a fee or cost,

to receive payment and consideration, to

segregate consideration received, to account

for consideration received, or otherwise to

enable a <u>Sender or Caller</u> party to provide or

to transfer consideration.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the

step of ~~segregating, transmitting, storing, holding,~~

~~distributing, or passing through transmissions or~~

~~communications directed to an account, address, or~~

~~location associated with a specific party, receiver,~~

~~account, or address~~ <u>segregating, transmitting,</u>

<u>storing, holding, distributing, or passing through</u>

<u>transmissions or communications</u> ~~directed~~ <u>to an account,</u>

<u>address, or location associated with a specific</u>

<u>receiver party,</u> ~~account, or address~~ comprises:

    i. Segregating, storing, holding, or directing

       transmissions or communications directed to a

       specific receiver party in or to an <u>web-based</u>

       <u>mail, traditional email, or other email</u>

       account, location or address associated with a

       specific receiver party;

   ii. transmitting, passing through, or distributing

       communication to Receiver parties or to an

       account or address or location associated with

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receiver party on or corresponding to a

receiver party's request or agreement to

access or receive communication.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, in which the

step of compensating party who receives communications

or participates in the method comprises:

    i. Receiving, authorizing, and segregating

       financial and beneficial transfers;

    ii. accounting for fees, revenues, costs, and

       other items;

  iii. ~~transmitting, storing, holding, or~~

       ~~distributing communication to receiver parties~~

       ~~or to an account or address or location~~

       ~~associated with receiver;~~

   iv. ~~enabling parties that have received~~

       ~~communication to access the communication by~~

       ~~enabling the parties to download, read, view,~~

       ~~or otherwise access the communication;~~

   iii. [~~v.~~]compensating or paying parties that

       have received communication or participated for

       his or her or their reception, participation,

       or per agreement.

9. (Currently amended) A ~~system and~~ method for enabling or

facilitating <u>electronic</u> communication in which a

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Merchant Intermediary enables or facilitates one party

to pay a fee, bear a cost, or provide consideration

that in whole or in part benefits the party that

receives the communication for the right or opportunity

to transmit or to direct a communication to the

receiver party, comprising:

    i. establishing an interface, site, identifier,
       or network presence on one or more networks or
       devices;

    ii. establishing addresses, accounts, identifiers,
       channels, codes, e-mail addresses, web site
       addresses, storage accounts, or other
       repositories, pass-through accounts,
       addresses, sites, or means;

    iii. establishing one or more unique ~~sites~~,
       accounts, or addresses for unique receiver
       parties in which the Merchant Intermediary may
       hold, segregate, or pass through information
       or transmissions directed to a specific
       Receiver, account, or address;

    iv. establishing a means for a <u>Sender or Caller</u>
       party to locate the address or account of a
       specific receiver party;

    v. providing services or means to allow <u>Sender or</u>
       <u>Caller</u> parties to create, to format, or to

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direct communications or transmissions to
specified receiver parties;

vi. providing services or means to allow <u>Sender or</u>
<u>Caller</u> parties to pay for, to assume a cost or
obligation, to charge or otherwise to bill, to
account, to access benefits, to debit, to
license, or otherwise to compensate or benefit
the Merchant Intermediary or the Receiver;

vii. <u>charging or requiring a threshold payment of</u>
<u>fee, accounting of pre-existing benefits, or a</u>
<u>present transfer of benefits or consideration</u>
<u>by Sender or Caller Party,</u> ~~Fan,~~ <u>or other party</u>
<u>on Sender or Caller Party's</u> ~~or Fan~~<u>'s behalf</u>
<u>prior to connecting, sending, transmitting, or</u>
<u>forwarding Sender or Caller Party's</u> ~~or Fan's~~
<u>communication to Receiver Party's account,</u>
<u>address, or to a location associated with a</u>
<u>specific receiver;</u>

viii. (~~vii.~~) providing services or means to receive
fees, to segregate benefits received, to
charge <u>Sender or Caller</u> parties a fee or cost
or otherwise processes financial transactions
or transfers associated with a <u>Sender or</u>
<u>Caller</u> party's acquiring the right or the
opportunity to transmit or to direct

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communication to an address or account

associated with a specific Receiver party;

    ix. (~~viii.~~) receiving, authorizing and accounting

for fees, revenues, costs, and other items;

    x. (~~ix.~~)transmitting, storing, holding, or

distributing <u>Sender or Caller Party's</u>

communication to Receiver parties or to

accounts, addresses, or locations associated

with Receiver parties;

    xi. (~~x.~~) compensating or paying Receiver parties

for his or her or their participation.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the

<u>Sender or Caller</u> party is referred or delivered

directly to a page, address, account, or location

associated with a receiver party such that the <u>Sender</u>

<u>or Caller</u> party does not have to input or to search for

or locate the page, address, account, or location

associated with a receiver party.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the

<u>Sender or Caller</u> party does not have to input or enter

any information or data relating to the address,

account, or content of the communication because the

<u>Sender or Caller Party's</u> communication is pre-existing

or automatically directed, forwarded, transmitted, or

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otherwise addressed or sent to the address or account

corresponding to the specific receiver party.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the

    Sender or Caller party does not have to enter any

    payment identifier, account information, security code,

    or other information to enable the Sender or Caller

    party to access an existing account, to transfer

    payment, or to provide consideration because the Sender

    or Caller party's computer or other device, for

    example by use of cookies or other means, automatically

    provides this or other information.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the party

    does not have to pay fees, or bear a cost because a

    third party provides consideration or compensation that

    benefits the receiver party.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiver

    party is compensated with consideration other than

    money.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiver

    party may set the terms, price, and conditions of the

    agreement or communication.

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16. (Currently amended) The ~~system and~~ method of claim 9 where the <u>Sender or Caller Party's</u> communication is stored on the email server, host computer, or other device of the Merchant Intermediary and not transmitted immediately to another computer.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 where the <u>Sender or Caller Party's</u> communication includes one of more types or kinds of data or information including for example, text, characters, audio, graphics, compressed video, <u>instant messaging, chat, voice,</u> or any other type of information that can be expressed in binary or digital form.

18. (Currently amended) The ~~system and~~ method of claim 9 wherein the ~~caller~~ <u>Sender or Caller</u> party accesses the Merchant Intermediary by utilizing a voice network or communicates using voice or audio information.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps or processes are automated or performed automatically; <u>except for the steps</u> ~~ii-iv~~ <u>iii-v of claim 1 where they require inputting information into the computer.</u>

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20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the

steps ii-iv iii-v of the method and steps may be taken

in different orders or sequences or performed

simultaneously.

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